



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

JOIN US !!!

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30am –

10:00am

***with
communion***

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

139 Craig's Meadow Road

East Stroudsburg PA 18301

570-223-9422

E-mail: stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net

Web Site: stpaulscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield



St. Paul's Mission Statement

We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life.

We seek spiritual maturity through worship, learning and serving.

We invite and welcome all who desire to share this journey of faith active in love.

YOU CAN VIEW PAST SERVICES ON OUR FACEBOOK AND WEB SITE.

LIVE STREAMING WILL NOW BE AVAILABE ON FACEBOOK FOR THE 10:00AM SUNDAY SERVICE.

Go direct to Facebook or Web Site home page and select FB tab

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR THOMAS

Remember St. Paul's Church in your Will

The money given in the regular collection often covers only the basic running costs of St. Paul's Congregation. Remembering the congregation in your Will is a wonderful way to give thanks for your faith and support the future work of the Church locally.

A legacy gift to St. Paul's could pay for:

- Structural improvements to make existing buildings more welcoming and accessible
- Pay down the mortgage
- Ministry to young people, the elderly or other groups
- Repair the parking lot
- Support the food pantry to change lives in the community
- Support mission and outreach to newcomers in the community

The Friday Ladies are sending a batch of Lap Robes with the Pastor for Brookmont Healthcare Center when he goes to visit Margo Kovacs.





Message from our Council President Laura Pride

Dear Church Family,

As I have mentioned to the congregation at both services, our Call Committee is currently in the interview process with a new candidate. It has come to my attention that a refresher on this process and what it means is necessary. After all, we have been in The Call Process for over 5 years! Please see the information below from the NEPA Synod website.

Some things to know...Our congregation's Ministry Site Profile has been updated over the years. Since 2017, our Call Committee has interviewed several candidates. Those candidates were either not recommended beyond council, or decided for personal reasons, to withdraw from the process. Our call committee has begun the process once again and had recently begun the interview process with a new candidate. I will continue to keep the congregation updated as I receive updates from the Call Committee.

The Call Process of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

You have a partner in the Bishop's Office guiding you through a call process in which the Holy Spirit works.

Recognizing that adjustments will be made to your congregation's process, here is what you can expect in this time of transition:

1. The bishop, with your council's approval, may appoint an **transition pastor** to serve with you. This pastor might be a designated pastor or an interim pastor.
2. Your **council** will establish a contract with the transition pastor and will negotiate responsibilities and compensation.
3. A variety of gatherings will occur during the transition. Representatives of the bishop **will address** questions, **listen** to ideas about ministry, **describe** the process in more detail and **gather** information
4. A **call committee** will be established according to the guidelines of your constitution.
5. The associate of the bishop assigned to your mission district will provide **orientation** to your call committee.
6. The council and call committee will write a **Ministry Site Profile** (a description of your congregation and the qualities you are looking for in a pastor).
7. The call committee will receive the **Rostered Minister Profile** of potential candidate(s).

8. The call committee **will enter an interview process** with the candidate(s).
9. The call committee will **keep you informed** of the progress of its work. The specifics of the potential candidate(s) are all confidential at this point.
10. After the call committee discerns a **primary candidate**, the committee and the candidate will meet with the council.
11. The council through its officers and the call committee chairperson will prepare a **letter of compensation and benefits** for the candidate.
12. The council will vote to **recommend the candidate** (with at least a 2/3 majority) to the congregation.
13. Members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to **meet the candidate**.
14. There will be a **special congregational meeting** to formally vote on the candidate.
15. If a congregation votes "yes" (with a minimum 2/3 majority), a **letter of call** is signed and forwarded to the bishop and sent to the pastor.
16. The **candidate has 30 days** to consider the call. If the candidate accepts the call, an **installation** date is set. If the candidate declines the call, the call committee goes back to work with the associate and synod bishop.

Through the whole process, your prayers are essential.

Pray that the Holy Spirit guide you, your call committee, your council and your synod in discerning whom God is calling to serve as your next pastor.

As I discussed in worship announcements, there are at least 6 churches in our Pocono Mission District that are without Pastor's. We are blessed to have Pastor Thomas as our interim Pastor. That means he is with us until we call a new Pastor. Pastor Thomas has already retired from being a permanently called minister. As an interim Pastor he is not eligible for our Call Process. Some churches in our Mission District have only a dozen or less parishioners. Some do not have an organist or a piano player. I share these statistics to bring our blessings as a congregation to light. We have many things to be thankful for and we have a responsibility to continue our mission to invite others to join us on our journeys with Jesus Christ despite our uncertainties. Our council members are working on grant possibilities for a variety of church property renovations including a new playground. Our property continues to be a beacon for many community programs including Boy Scouts, Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous, and Phoenix Martial Arts. Change is constant, but God is the same. Look forward to more information in our bulletin concerning upcoming Christmas announcements and activities. Our Congregational Meeting for the 2023 budget approval will be on Sunday December 4th after the second service. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 15th after the second service. I continue to pray for all of you and your families and will hold you all in gratitude this Thanksgiving.



Happy November from Worship and Music!

The weeks are going by quickly and soon we will be celebrating Thanksgiving followed by Advent and the Christmas season. To get a jump on the holidays, below is some information to put on your calendars.

Service Assistants – Sign-up sheets for the November and December are on the bulletin board. Please take a minute and sign-up if you can serve as a lay reader, acolyte, greeter or communion assistant for a Sunday. Your help is most appreciated.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins - Celebrate a loved one by sponsoring the altar flowers and bulletins for a Sunday service. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board and checks may be given to the Church Secretary or Dana Strohl. We are in need of coffee cans to send the flower arrangements home in after church. If you have any, please drop them off to the Secretary's office.

Music – Choir meets on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the sanctuary and sings on Sundays at the 10am service. If you know someone who likes to sing, please see Kathy Ertle. Praise team performs on the 4th Sunday of the month and is led by Chris Matthy. Please join us in song!

Decorating the Church – We will be decorating the church for Advent on Saturday, November 26th at 10am. Please come if you are able to help. We will be putting up the Advent wreath along with the Christmas trees at the altar. Many hands make for short work!

Poinsettias – Red, white and pink poinsettias in 6 ½" pots for \$12.00 are available this year. Orders must be received by Sunday, November 27th with checks made payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield.

Advent Series – Laura Pride will be holding Advent services via Zoom on Wednesday evenings starting November 30th. Zoom will open at 6:30 with the service running from 7-7:45pm.

Holiday Service Times – So you can plan for your families, Christmas Eve services will be held at 3:30pm and 7:00pm. Christmas Day will be a combined service at 10am.

New Year's Day will be a combined service at 10am featuring Lessons and Carols.

Blessings,
Worship & Music

Poinsettia Plants to decorate the church for Christmas

Orders must be placed by Sunday, Nov 27th.

Please return form to Secretary's office.

6 ½ " plant with multiple blooms \$12.00 ea. in Red, White or Pink flowers.



Name _____

Phone _____

Qty ____ White @\$12.00 = _____

Qty ____ Pink @\$12.00 = _____

Qty ____ Red @\$12.00 = _____

Total \$ _____

Checks payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

All Saints Day Tribute – All Saints Day Sunday celebrated on November 6th. Loved ones who have passed were celebrated with the lighting of candles in their memory.



ST. PAUL'S CEMETERY, CRAIGS MEADOW

Twice a year Monroe County's Chapter of the Viet Nam Veterans are entrusted to spruce up 7 cemeteries in eastern Monroe with new flags for all veterans from the Revolutionary War to present. Doug Albertson and Ed Mack volunteer their time to complete this task prior to Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. As the months and years go by and the Viet Nam vets get older it is more and more difficult to complete this task. Since his move to Ohio in 2020 Doug has been driving to East Stroudsburg faithfully to honor our veterans, help support Local VVA Chapter 678, and beautify the county's cemeteries.

**Please take time to walk around and see the flags placed in honor of all the Veterans
by Doug Albertson.**



Dedicated to quality performances of outstanding choral music in the Poconos

**Pocono
Concert
Chorale**



James Maroney, *Artistic Director & Conductor* • Ruth Kochera, *Accompanist*

presents

Christmas in America thru the ages

American Christmas music from colonial times to the present

*traditional carols & spirituals, songs by William Billings, Alfred Burt,
Morten Lauridsen, Charles Ives, Leroy Anderson, and much more!*

Sunday December 4 at 2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church 575 Main St. Stroudsburg, PA

Adults - \$10 Seniors - \$8 Students - \$5

Tickets available at the door or in advance from Pocono Concert Chorale members



*Pocono Concert Chorale is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that receives funding support from the **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts**, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the **National Endowment for the Arts**, a federal agency.*

www.poconoconcertchorale.org

www.facebook.com/poconoconcertchorale

CELEBRATION HALL INFORMATION

TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

Please call the office for phone number or see Sonji Patrick for contact information.

The Hospitality Committee

Committee meets quarterly to review the operation of Celebration Hall. They take care of advertising the hall as a venue, booking events and acting as on-site stewards during those events. They also oversee the care of the hall including maintenance and cleaning.

Please share with family and friends.



Celebrate Your Event



- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

- Weddings
- Birthday Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Banquets
- Meetings
- Workshops



SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

What's happening with Growing Young?

Growing Young is an initiative lived out in the NEPSynod, congregations, and individuals' ministry. Growing Young was our synod assembly theme in 2021, but it is not a once-and-done theme. Growing Young is something we strive to accomplish together, continually.

Congregations throughout our synod have been diving deep into the journey of Growing Young. Some are just beginning and exploring the concept whereas others are already incorporating it within their congregation and even helping beginners to gain the whole Growing Young experience. In case you are new to Growing Young, Growing Young is a movement in the NEPA Synod and throughout the greater ELCA and is based on a book of the same name. The book studied churches of all sizes, denominations, and locations throughout the country that are maintaining and engaging youth and young adults in their congregations. What does Growing Young really look like though?

Growing Young will look different for every congregation and the journey to get there will not be the same. Devoting time and commitment to the 6 core characteristics is the only way for your congregation to work towards a Growing Young outcome. These commitments orbit around a Jesus-centered community and help us truly become the church. Now is the time to pass down leadership and pastoral roles to those eager to assist and prioritize youth & young families everywhere. Now is the time to focus on warm relationships and empathize with today's youth. Now is the time to be the best neighbor and share Jesus' message seriously.

Is your congregation ready to Grow Young? Resources are available to help guide your community to the Growing Young mindset. For more information, visit godslove.org/growingyoung or by reaching out to the Growing Young coordinator, Stacey Burke at stacey@nepsynod.org or at 610-266-5101 ext. 10.

Let's Grow Young together!

COMING UP:

Nov. 5: WeLove

Nov. 12: Faith Formation Saturdays

Nov. 14-15: Bishop Conference



Visit us:

<http://www.Godslove.org/>

JUNE
1-3

**SYNOD
ASSEMBLY
2023**



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

"GIVE THANKS TO
THE LORD, FOR
GOD IS GOOD;
GOD'S LOVE
ENDURES
FOREVER."

1 CHRONICLES 16:34



Faith in Action

Hope's Table

A Synodically Authorized
Worshipping Community in
Reading, where the community
comes together to eat, worship,
and build relationships. A
community fostered in the
poorest neighborhood of the
city. It all started as a small
gathering but has grown into a
comfortable place for people
who wouldn't otherwise feel
comfortable within the walls of
a church.

Tuesdays 5:30PM
601 N Front St
Reading PA
Pastor Mary Wolfe

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	2 Praise Team 6:30pm	3 Choir 6:30pm	4 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12:00noon	5
6 32nd Sunday after Pentecost All Saints Sunday 8:30 & 10:00am w/communion Pastor Thomas	7 Music & Worship 6:30pm	8 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	9	10 Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	11 Friday Ladies 9:30am – 12:00noon Veterans Day	12
13 33rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 & 10:00am w/communion Pastor Thomas	14	15 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	16 Praise Team 6:30pm	17 Thanksgiving Food Pantry 9:30am – 12:00noon Choir 6:30pm	18	19
20 Christ the King 8:30 & 10:00am w/communion Pastor Thomas	21	22 Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	23	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25	26 Church Decorating
27 1st Advent 8:30am w/communion Pastor Thomas 10:00am w/communion Contemporary Service w/Praise Team	28	29 Bible Study 11:30am – 12:30pm	30 Advent Services On Zoom Open 6:30pm Until 7:45pm			